

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1 through 30 are pending, with Claims 1, 6, 12, and 16 being independent. The independent claims have been amended. Claims 27 through 30 have been added.

Claims 1 through 4, 6 through 9, and 12 through 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over commonly-assigned U.S. Patent No. 5,157,431 (Mabuchi, et al.). Claims 5 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Mabuchi, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,274,414 (Taniguchi, et al.). Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Mabuchi, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,191,373 (Nakano). All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1, 6, 12, and 16 variously recite, inter alia, a setting circuit for setting (Claims 1 and 6) or maintaining (Claims 12 and 16) the second mode when the communication is absent.

However, Applicant respectfully submits that none of Mabuchi, et al., Taniguchi, et al., and Nakano, even in the proposed combinations, assuming, arguendo, that the documents could be combined, discloses or suggests at least the above-discussed claimed features as recited, inter alia, in Claims 1, 6, 12, and 16. In this regard, the Official Action relies upon col. 6, line 37 through col. 7, line 24 of Mabuchi, et al. Applicant has carefully reviewed Mabuchi, et al. in this regard, and respectfully notes that whether the disclosed bit has the value of 0 or 1, communication is present. It is further respectfully submitted that there has been no showing of any indication of motivation in the cited documents that would lead one having ordinary skill in the art to arrive at such claimed features.

It will further be appreciated that Claims 1, 6, 12, and 16 have been amended to delete the feature "wherein the signal from the camera unit or the external device is serial", which was added in the June 27, 2002, Amendment. Applicant respectfully submits that even without said feature, the claims remain patentable over the documents applied in the February 27, 2002, Official Action, in view of the recitation of the above-discussed claimed features.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

This Amendment After Final Rejection is an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, and is believed to clearly place this application in condition for allowance. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that a full appreciation of these amendments will not require undue time or effort given the Examiner's familiarity with this application. Moreover, this Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicant earnestly believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Appln. No. 09/103,398
Atty. Docket No. 03500.012806
(35.C12806)

MARKED-UP CLAIM SHEET

1. (Twice Amended) A lens unit to be connected to a camera unit, said lens unit comprising:

a control circuit having a first mode in which driving control is effected according to a signal from the camera unit or a signal from an external device and a second mode in which operation control is effected according to a signal from said lens unit[, wherein the signal from the camera unit or the external device is serial]; and

a setting circuit for detecting communication of the signal from the camera unit or the external device at power on of a power supply of said lens unit and for setting said second mode when the communication is absent.

6. (Twice Amended) A camera system including a camera unit and a lens unit to be connected to said camera unit, said camera system comprising:

a control circuit having a first mode in which driving control is effected according to a signal from said camera unit or a signal from an external device and a second mode in which operation control is effected according to a signal from said lens unit[, wherein the signal from the camera unit or the external device is serial]; and

a setting circuit for detecting communication of the signal from said camera unit or the external device at power on of a power supply of said lens unit and for setting said second mode when the communication is absent,

wherein said control circuit and setting circuit are disposed in said lens unit.

12. (Twice Amended) A lens unit to be connected to a camera unit, said lens unit comprising:

a control circuit having a first mode in which driving control is effected according to a signal from the camera unit or a signal from an external device and a second mode in which operation control is effected according to a signal from said lens unit[, wherein the signal from the camera unit or the external device is serial]; and

a setting circuit for setting the second mode at power on of a power supply of said lens unit and for thereafter detecting serial communication of a digital signal from the camera unit or the external device, said setting circuit maintaining the second mode when the communication is absent.

16. (Twice Amended) A camera system including a camera unit and a lens unit to be connected to said camera unit, said camera system comprising:

a control circuit having a first mode in which driving control is effected according to a signal from said camera unit or a signal from an external device and a second mode in which operation control is effected according to a signal from said lens unit[, wherein the signal from the camera unit or the external device is serial]; and

a setting circuit for setting the second mode at power on of a power supply of said lens unit and for thereafter detecting communication of the signal from said camera unit or the external device, said setting circuit maintaining the second mode when the communication is absent,

wherein said control circuit and setting circuit are disposed in said lens unit.

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